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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
The Joint Staff

SUBJECT: Agricultural Estimates on the Sino-Soviet
Bloc

REFERENCE: Memo to DCI from DDI, JS, DSDM-12-55, dated
9 May 1955

1. I share fully your evaluation of the importance of providing timely and full intelligence on the Sino-Soviet Bloc food supply situation and agricultural outlook. Developments in this field are extremely significant in estimating economic growth capabilities within the Sino-Soviet Bloc. The general problem was a subject of discussion at the National Security Council meeting of 12 May.

2. Among the economic intelligence reports issued by CIA, there are two types published each year which relate to crop conditions in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. Near the end of the crop season, a qualitative report, in the form of an Intelligence Memorandum, is issued and gives the general agricultural outlook for the year just ending. Early in the following year, a detailed quantitative estimate on the previous year's food production follows. Two recent reports -- CIA/RR 58, 1953-54 Food Situation in the Soviet Bloc, and CIA/RR PR-34, Cost of Selected Worker Diets in the USSR, 1948-53 -- give very useful background information on the general subject. I understand that these reports, as well as all Intelligence Memoranda relating to the agricultural situation, have been distributed to your office. In addition, current aspects of agricultural developments have been discussed in memoranda of the CSM series which are prepared primarily for internal use. Although the CSM series is not considered finished intelligence, selected CSM's have been entered in the enclosed listing, and we shall be pleased to furnish you with copies of these informal notes if you so desire.

JCS review(s) completed.

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JCS

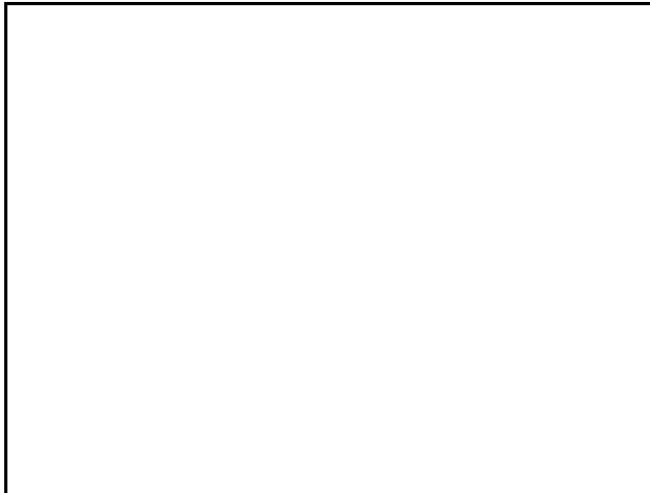
SECRET

3. Our agricultural analysts make monthly appraisals, based on weather data, on developing crop conditions in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. These are not published but Mr. Easton of your office is already aware of their nature, and we shall be most happy to brief your representative on an informal basis regarding these appraisals in order that you may be kept informed periodically of the changes in the agricultural outlook in the Sino-Soviet Bloc as derived from the data.

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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CONCUR:

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7-0205

DDIM-12-55
9 May 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Subject: Agricultural Outlook in the Sino-Soviet Bloc

1. For some time there has been an increasing interest here as elsewhere in the Intelligence Community in the agricultural outlook for the countries of the Sino-Soviet Bloc.

2. The effect of agricultural success or failure is a major factor in the economic decisions of a nation. If we could predict the supply of food in the Sino-Soviet Bloc, it is possible that our policy makers could be provided with intelligence of a very useful nature.

3. Because of their critical importance, I believe we should continue to watch closely Sino-Soviet agricultural developments. In this respect, I would like in particular to obtain from the Central Intelligence Agency continuing seasonal estimates of the crop outlook of the Sino-Soviet Bloc countries. A member of my Staff has informally discussed the problem with [redacted] of the Central Intelligence Agency who assured him that this is feasible.

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4. Your help in this matter would be appreciated.

EDWIN T. LAYTON
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director for Intelligence
The Joint Staff

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET (SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

SUSPENSE: 17 May 1955

TO	INITIALS	DATE
1 AD/RR		
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FROM	INITIALS	DATE
1 ADD/I	jm	13 May
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APPROVAL INFORMATION SIGNATURE
 ACTION DIRECT REPLY RETURN
 COMMENT PREPARATION OF REPLY DISPATCH
 CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDATION FILE

Remarks: Preparation of reply for DCI signature.
 Mr. Dulles read this and said it was discussed
 at NSC meeting 12 May. In preparing the reply
 the fact that it was discussed at NSC and the fact
 that Mr. Dulles agrees with Admiral Layton on the
 prime importance of the subject matter should be
 included.

jm